

Message Text

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SUBJECT: REGIONAL CONGRESS OF THE D.C., PALERMO, FEB. 28/29

REF: PALERMO 0105

1. SUMMARY: ON FEBRUARY 28-29 SICILY'S D.C. CHOSE ITS DELEGATION TO THE NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS, CONFIRMING PRECONGRESSIONAL RESULTS (REFTEL). WHILE DC LEADERS POSTPONED RESOLVING THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE PRO-CONFRONTO WITH THE PCI ALIGNMENT AND THE ANTI-DIALOGUE WITH THE PCI GROUP, MINISTER NINO GULLOTTI IMPROVED, EVEN IF SLIGHTLY, HIS CONGRESSIONAL VOTE PACKAGE. END OF SUMMARY.

2. SICILIAN DC DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS: ON FEBRUARY 29, THE SICILIAN DC, FOLLOWING A TWO-DAY DEBATE IN PALERMO, ELECTED A TOTAL OF 67 DELEGATES TO THE UPCOMING NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS. THESE REPRESENT 167,576 SICILIAN MEMBERSHIP CARD HOLDERS. THE RESULTS ROUGHLY CONFIRMED PRECONGRESSIONAL NUMBERS (REFTEL). HERE FOLLOWS THE DISTRIBUTION OF SICILIAN DELEGATES BY FACTION: LISTA GULLOTTI, 16 DELEGATES, 24 PERCENT IMPEGNO DEMOCRATICO (LIMA - DRAGO), 13 DELEGATES, 20 PERCENT FANFANIANI (GIOIA), 13 DELEGATES, 19 PERCENT INIZIATIVA POPOLARE (RUFFINI), 11 DELAGETS, 17 PERCENT FORZE NUOVE (NICOLETTI-SINESIO), 8 DELEGATES, 12 PERCENT MOROTEI (MATTARELLA), 5 DELEGATES, 7 PERCENT BASE, 1 DELEGATE, 0.5 PERCENT.

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3. SICILIAN DC DELEGATES POSTPONE COMMITMENTS:

REJUVENATION AND RAPPORT WITH THE PCI WERE THE TWO MAIN TOPICS DEBATED (BUT NOT EXHAUSTED). ALL DELEGATES WERE UNANIMOUS IN RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR THE DC TO REJUVENATE ITS NATIONAL LEADERSHIP. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE DC RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PCI PRODUCED A VARIETY OF ATTITUDES. SICILY'S DC LEADERS EVIDENTLY DECIDED NOT TO COMMIT THEMSELVES DEFINITELY IN THE ZACCAGNINI-FORLANI CONTEST. THEY PREFERRED TO SAVE ALL THEIR AMMUNITION FOR WHAT ALL OBSERVERS CALLED THE "REAL" CONGRESS OF THE DC, WHICH IS NOW EXPECTED TO BE HELD IN PREPARATION FOR NEXT JUNE'S REGIONAL ELECTION AND WHICH WILL PROVIDE THE DC WITH A NEW REGIONAL LEADERSHIP.

4. A NOTE OF COLOR: A NOTE OF COLOR WAS ADDED TO AN OTHERWISE DULL CONGRESS WHEN ALBERTO ALESSI, YOUNG ADHERENT OF PALERMO DC BASE, READ A LETTER FROM THE ARCHIVES OF HIS FATHER, GIUSEPPE ALESSI, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE SICILIAN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY AND NOW PROMINENT DC NATIONAL DEPUTY, AS FOLLOWS: ".....THE MAN IN THE STREET IS APPALLED AT THE GROWING POLITICAL CORRUPTION, PRODUCED BY THE FACILITY TO MULTIPLY SALARIED POSTS, BY EXAGGERATED ROYALTIES, BY BRIBES FOR CLOSING ONE EYE OR TWO, BY MONEY HARVESTED IN THE COURSE OF ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS.....ETC, ETC". THE AUDIENCE LISTENED ATTENTIVELY AND WITH RESPECT. THE AUTHOR WAS LUIGI STURZO, THE SICILIAN PRIEST WHO FOUNDED THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, AND THE LETTER WAS DATED JUNE 30, 1958.

5. NOTE: THE FEBRUARY 28-29 EXERCISE AWARDED EACH DELEGATE A PACKAGE OF VOTES TO BE USED AT THE NATIONAL CONGRESS: OF COURSE, THE HEAVIER THE PACKAGE THE MORE WEIGHT HE WILL COMMAND. MINISTER NINO GULLOTTI IMPROVED EVEN IF SLIGHTLY ON HIS PRECONGRESSIONAL POSITIONS. MOREOVER, THE PREVAILING MOOD OF THE SICILIAN DC CONGRESS WAS ONE OF SYMPATHY TOWARD ZACCAGNINI AT LARGE AND THE CONFRONTO WITH THE PCI IN OPERATION AT THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY SINCE NOVEMBER 1975. FANFANIANO MINISTER GIOVANNI GIOIA WAS STEADFAST IN HIS ANTI-DIALOGUE WITH THE PCI, FINDING HIMSELF IN THE COMPANY OF ONLY ATTILIO RUFFINI. THEY ARE, HOWEVER, MUCH CLOSER TO THE MOOD PREVAILING OUTSIDE THE DC OFFICIALDOM AMONG

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JUST PLAIN SICILIAN DC VOTERS. CHIAVARINI

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